

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



“every disciple that is perfect, shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

EDIFY ONE ANOTHER

“Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.”
1 Thessalonians 5:11

At the close of Paul's first letter to the church at Thessalonica, he exhorted them to "edify one another" (1 Thes. 5:11). The word "edify" comes from the Greek word *oikodomeo*. This word occurs thirty-nine times in the original text, and all except eight times it is translated as "build" or "built." Our Lord chose to use this word in Matthew 7:24 when He spoke of the wise man who "built his house on the rock."

The idea Paul had in mind was that Christians should "build" one another up in the faith. After defining the word, Thayer comments that it is "the act of one who promotes another's growth in Christians wisdom, piety, holiness, happiness" (*Greek-English Lexicon Of The New Testament*, p. 440). W. E. Vine said the word is "used metaphorically, in the sense of 'edifying,' promoting the spiritual growth and development of character of believers, by teaching or by example, suggesting such spiritual progress as the result of patient labor." (*Expository Dictionary Of Biblical Words*, p. 194).

One of the highest duties that a Christian has is to encourage others. In a world filled with pessimism, violence and despair, our need for encouragement is great. It is all too easy to let the "ways of the wicked" become our ways. The happy man is the one who refuses to "stand in the path of sinners" or "sit in the seat of the scornful" (Psalm 1:1).

After a week of listening to the gripes and complaints of this sin-sick world, Christians should look forward to an isle of retreat on the Lord's day. A place where the name of God is blessed, not cursed. A place where we can enjoy the "seasons of refreshing" which only God can provide (Acts 3:19).

It is truly a shame the Christians do not spend more time in each other's company. The Hebrew writer bids us to "consider one another in order to stir up love and good works" (Heb. 10:24). After the command, he tells us how it is to be accomplished: "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together" (Heb. 10:25).

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Building one another up, is one way to ...
Choose the Strait Gate in 2008

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RECORDS 4/13/2008

SERMONS 4/20/2008

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 54
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 100
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 76
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 52
CONTRIBUTION: \$2360

AM: Joshua Manning

PM: Jossha Manning

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord,
shall enter in to the kingdom of heaven;
but he that doeth the will of my Father” - Matthew 7:21

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!

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SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320
Nursery provided

Bible Classes for all ages

LADIES CLASS

Tuesdays (except 1st) 10 AM

ELDERS

Donald Klieves

Home Phone (803) 996-3793
E-Mail: DKlieves@yahoo.com

Ed Kelleher

Office Phone (803) 796-8858
Home Phone (803) 791-0950
E-Mail: Ed@macro-inc.com

EVANGELIST

Jerry Manning

Home Phone (803) 936-1502
Cell Phone (803) 429-3738

E-Mail: Jerry1Manning@yahoo.com
Bulletin Editor—Ed Kelleher

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Beryl Parks, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Nathaniel Manning (Jerry and Lynn's grandson), Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- **Lamar Reeves** is to have a double hip replacement Monday. He is in constant agonizing pain and we're thankful to God that Lamar is able to have this very necessary surgery so quickly. Remember him in your prayers, not only for his physical well being, but also as he continues to struggle with a very difficult home situation. The elders report he is dealing with both in an exemplary fashion.
- **Doris Sheppard** is doing very well after wrist surgery and requests prayers for **Tootsie Gilbert**, a close friend of hers who fell and fractured several vertebrae, and also for her uncle **Bill Geiger** in Florida who had a heart attack.
- Remember all these and **Dianne and Tiffany Dillard** as they slowly adjust to the loss of Paul, and brother **Manning** and those he studies the Bible with, in your prayers.

“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” - Romans 8:18

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- The **youth** are meeting on a regular basis at the building, Mondays at 7 pm to work on murals for our upcoming VBS.
- **Ladies** work on the **visual aids** every **Tuesday** 7:00 pm, at the building.
- **SAVE THE DATE!** Our **Fall Gospel Meeting** is scheduled Sun-Wed, **Sep 14-17, 2008** with **Billy Bland**, well known Gospel preacher and instructor at MSOP.
- **SAVE THE DATE!** **Youth Get Together!** **Jan and Ferah's Glott's** home, Friday evening and Saturday, **April 25,26.**

“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.” - 1 Timothy 6:12

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

Pray for our sister **Jeanette Reeves**, Lamar's mother, who has been caught up in the snare of Satan. She has refused all attempts at contact by the elders, evangelist and other church members. The elders regretfully announce she can no longer be in our fellowship till she repents. The elders request that all remember Jeanette in their prayers; that she will repent and that the Lord be merciful and grant her time to do so.

“And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.” - 2 Thessalonians 3:14,15

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EDIFY ONE ANOTHER—(continued from page 1)

In the days of Haggai, the people of God grew discouraged while the working to rebuild the temple. God commanded them to get back to work, then gave them comfort by saying, “**I am with you, says the Lord of hosts**” (Hag. 2:4). Consider what it meant for those Jews to whom Haggai spoke to know the Lord was with them. Surely they could remember the stories of how Jehovah had been with their fathers as they passed through the Red Sea. They knew that God had “led them by the hand” through the wilderness on their way to Canaan. In view of God's goodness, how could they doubt Him now?

In a similar vain, Jesus has promised to be “in the midst” of His disciples when they assemble (Matt. 18:20). What a thought! The Son of God in our midst every Lord's day. He has also promised to be with us as we carry out the great commission (Matt. 28:20). Do you desire to be in the presence of the Lord and His people?

As we run our race toward eternal glory, let us continually encourage each other and “**run with endurance the race that is set before us**” (Heb. 12:1,2).

- **David Padfield**, evangelist for the Church of Christ in Zion, Illinois.

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Our LADIES DAY was a success last Saturday! We had eleven congregations represented. There will be a Ladies Day Wrap up Session at 1:30 p.m. after the fellowship meal on May 4th. Sisters, you are encouraged to attend and bring your suggestions and/or concerns about this our first ladies day such as what was liked/disliked, what you felt could be improved along with suggestions on how to improve on our next one.

“WEEP WITH THEM THAT WEEP” - Romans 12:15

Last Saturday, about 5 am, an extended family from New York, the Walls and the Reynolds, were traveling on I-95 near Manning in two cars. A van driving the wrong way struck them both, after hitting two other cars just prior to that. It was very bad for the family from New York. They all were taken to the trauma center at Palmetto Richland Memorial Hospital. A girl, Samantha Reynolds, 14, died. One driver's wife, Melissa Reynolds, is in critical condition. Their son Anthony, 17 was also very seriously injured. One of the drivers, who wasn't as badly hurt physically, was nonetheless grievously hurt in the spirit. He had one of the “Welcome to South Carolina” booklets in which he saw an advertisement placed by the church here: “NEED GOD?” He called late Sunday afternoon. Sunday evening the evangelist and other members of the church visited them in the hospital, bringing food. The family was greatly comforted and encouraged by the church. Brother Manning, who is from New York, knows of a sound congregation in the town they are from and has put them in touch. Continue to pray for the **Walls** and **Reynolds** families that they recover physically, and spiritually.

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” - Matthew 5:16